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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/085,480	02/26/2002	Gebran J. Sabongi	7780.788US01	4892

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3M INNOVATIVE PROPERTIES COMPANY  
PO BOX 33427  
ST. PAUL, MN 55133-3427

EXAMINER
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DAO, MINH D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2682

DATE MAILED: 12/22/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/085,480

Applicant(s)

SABONGI ET AL.

Examiner

MINH D DAO

Art Unit

2682

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 August 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 19-34 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 9-11, 14-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 8, 12 and 13 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

1. Claims are 14,15,16,17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bamburak (US 2002/0137466 A1).

Regarding claim 14, Bamburak teaches a two-way radio (See Fig. 3, item 10) so as to render its operability observable, the two-way radio comprising: an antenna for receiving and broadcasting transmissions (Fig. 3, item 14); a transceiver unit coupled to the antenna for modulating a carrier signal with a signal to be transmitted and for recovering a baseband signal from a received transmission Fig. 3, item 12); a microprocessor (Fig. 3, item 14; Section [0022], lines 5-7) coupled to the transceiver unit, the microprocessor programmed to command a broadcast of a transmission containing a code identifying the radio (Section [0006], lines 6-11), at a designated point in time (Section [0023], lines 1-3; Section [0024], lines 30-36); and wherein, prior to the broadcast of the transmission containing the identification code, a transmission protocol governing subsequent transmissions is known by the radio (Section [0025], lines 1-18).

Regarding claim 15, Bamburak teaches the two-way radio of claim 14 wherein the designated point in time for transmission of the identification code occurs in a power-up sequence of the radio (Section [0023], lines 1-3; Section [0024], lines 30-36).

Regarding claim 16, Bamburak teaches the two-way radio of claim 14 wherein the designated point in time for transmission of the identification code occurs after a period of delay following a broadcast of a query signal (Section [0023], lines 5-11).

Regarding claim 17, Bamburak teaches the two-way radio of claim 14 wherein the designated point in time for transmission of the identification code occurs following a broadcast of a query signal containing the code identifying the radio (Section [0023], lines 1-3, Section [0024], lines 30-36).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under

37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

2. Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bamburak (US 2002/0137466 A1).

Regarding claim 18, Bamburak teaches all limitations as claimed in claim 14 but fails to disclose that the transceiver unit transmits upon a first carrier frequency and receives signals modulated upon a second carrier frequency. However, Examiner takes Official Notice that the transceiver unit transmits upon a first carrier frequency and receives signals modulated upon a second carrier frequency. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Bamburak as claimed so that it would transmit and receive on different frequencies to prevent internal interference.

3. Claims 1-5, 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tamai (US Patent 5,710,979) in view of Casper (US Patent 5,548,623).

Regarding claim 1, Tamai teaches a method of identifying nonfunctional two-way (Col. 4, lines 66-67; Col. 5, lines 1-2) radios from among a known group of two-way radios expected to be operating within a region (See Figs 1 and 2; in this case, the region as

claimed read on the communication network in reference Tamai), the method comprising: for each of the two-way radios expected to be operating within the region, establishing a corresponding window of time (Col. 4, lines 56-67; in this case, the window of time as claimed read on the response interval of reference Tamai); for each of the established windows of time, awaiting a transmission from the corresponding radio (Col. 4, lines 56-67); if, for a particular radio, no transmission is detected within its corresponding window of time, recording the absence of the transmission (Col. 5, lines 15-26; Col. 6, lines 52-58; item M; Col. 4, lines 51-54). However, Tamai fails to teach that if for a particular radio, the number of times absence of transmission has been recorded exceeds a threshold, identifying the particular radio as nonfunctional. Casper, in an analogous art, teaches that for a particular radio, if the number of times absence of transmission has been recorded exceeds a threshold, identifying the particular radio as nonfunctional (col. 9, lines 54-62). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to provide the teaching of Casper to Tamai in order to prevent the situation that the particular radio is mistakenly identified as nonfunctional.

Regarding claim 2, the combination of the teachings of Tamai and Casper teaches The method of claim 1, wherein the step of establishing a time window corresponding to each radio comprises: for each of the two-way radios expected to be operating in the region, assigning a corresponding unique delay period (Reference Tamai, Col. 4, lines 66-67; Col. 5, lines 1-2; Col. 12, lines 61-67; Col. 13, lines 1-5; in this case the unique

delay period as claimed read on the "cycle" of reference Tamai); broadcasting a query signal (Reference Tamai ,Col. 4, lines 57-67); following the broadcast of the query signal, for each of the two-way radios, commencing the window of time corresponding to a particular radio (Reference Tamai, Col. 5, lines 14-21), after waiting for the unique delay period assigned to the particular radio to elapse; and for each of the two-way radios, closing, its corresponding window of time, after waiting for a pre-defined period to elapse (Reference Tamai, col. 5, lines 22-25).

Regarding claim 3, the combination of the teachings of Tamai and Casper teaches the method of claim 1 wherein the step of establishing a time window corresponding to each radio comprises: transmitting a query signal containing a code identifying a particular radio (Reference Tamai, Col. 12, lines 61-67); commencing the window of time corresponding to the particular radio, upon transmission of the query signal; and closing the window of time corresponding to the particular radio (Reference Tamai, Col. 5, lines 14-21), after waiting for a pre-defined period of time to elapse (Reference Tamai, Col. 5, lines 22-25).

Regarding claim 4, the combination of the teachings of Tamai and Casper teaches the method of claim 1 wherein the step of establishing a time window corresponding to each radio comprises: opening a window of time corresponding to all of the radios (Reference Tamai, Col. 5, lines 14-21); waiting for a predefined period to elapse; and closing the window of time (Reference Tamai, Col. 5, lines 22-25).

Regarding claim 5, the combination of the teachings of Tamai and Casper teaches the method of claim 1 wherein the step of awaiting a transmission from a radio corresponding, to a window of time comprises: receiving transmissions on a carrier frequency assigned to the radio corresponding to the window of time (Reference Tamai, Col. 4, lines 56-67, Col. 5, lines 1-2); and inspecting the received transmissions for presence of an identification code (Reference Tamai, Col. 4, lines 57-66) corresponding to the radio corresponding to the window of time.

Regarding claim 9, the combination of the teachings of Tamai and Casper teaches that the method of claim 1 further comprising: upon identifying a particular radio as nonfunctional, issuing an alert (Reference Tamai, Col. 5, lines 22-25).

4. Claims 10,11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tamai (US Patent 5,710,979) in view of Casper (US Patent 5,548,623) and further in view of Gabrielle (US Patent 5,673,036).

Regarding claim 10, the combination of the teachings of Tamai and Casper teaches limitations of claim 9 above but fails to teach issuing an alert comprises presenting a message on a display screen. Gabrielle teaches that issuing an alert comprises presenting a message on a display screen (see Fig. 1, item 108; Col. 2, lines 60-64). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to provide the teaching Gabrielle to the teachings of Tamai and



Casper for the benefit of experiencing the convenience of having the message displayed on the screen.

Regarding claim 11, the combination of the teachings of Tamai and Casper teaches limitations of claim 1 above but fails to teach that upon identifying a particular radio as nonfunctional, contacting a repair service; and identifying the nonfunctional radio to the repair service. Gabrielle teaches that upon identifying a particular radio as nonfunctional, contacting a repair service; and identifying the nonfunctional radio to the repair service (Col. 5, lines 1-15). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to provide the teaching Gabrielle to the teachings of Tamai and Casper in order to be able to notify a device service provider to request for service.

5. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tamai (US Patent 5,710,979) in view of Casper (US Patent 5,548,623) and further in view of Braun et al. (US Patent 6,512,832).

Regarding claim 6, the combination of the teachings of Tamai and Casper teaches limitations as claimed in claim 5 but fails to teach that the identification code is a sinusoid of a pre-defined frequency. Braun discloses a sinusoidal identification code of a pre-defined frequency (Col. 6, lines 44-48). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to provide the

teaching of Braun to the teachings of Tamai and Casper in order to have a simple and low cost way of identifying a transmitted signal.

6. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tamai (US Patent 5,710,979) in view of Casper (US Patent 5,548,623) and further in view of Gurney et al. (US 2003/0072358 A1).

Regarding claim 7, the combination of the teachings of Tamai and Casper teaches limitations as claimed in claim 5 but fails to teach that the identification code is a pre-defined binary signal. Gurney discloses a binary identification code of a pre-defined frequency (See section [0038]). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to provide the teaching of Braun to the teachings of Tamai and Casper in order to have a simple and low cost way of identifying a transmitted signal.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

7. Claims 8, 12 and 13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Regarding claim 8, the combination of the teachings of Tamai and Casper teaches the limitations set forth in claim 1. However, the combination fails to teach that the method of claim 1 further comprising: assigning a first frequency upon which all of the two-way radios are to receive transmissions; assigning a second frequency upon which all of the two-way radios are to broadcast transmissions; and assigning a unique identification code to each of the two-way radios.

Regarding claim 12, the combination of the teachings of Tamai and Casper teaches the limitations set forth in claim 1. However, the combination fails to teach that the method of claim 1 further comprising: during an initialization sequence for a particular radio, receiving from the particular radio, a unique identification code to be embedded in the radio's awaited transmission during its corresponding window of time; receiving a serial number identifying the particular radio; and adding the particular radio's unique identification code and serial number to a list of two-way radios expected to be operating in the region.

8. Claims 19-34 are allowed.

9. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claim 19, cited references Tamai (US Patent 5,710,979), Casper (US Patent 5,548,623) and Bamburak (US 2003/0137466 A1) fail to teach a wireless intercom.

system comprising: a first two-way radio fashioned as a headset; a second two-way radio fashioned as a headset; and a repeater unit; wherein transmissions from the first and second two-way radio occur upon a first carrier frequency; wherein the first and second two-way radios receive transmissions carried upon a second carrier frequency; wherein the repeater unit receives transmission carried upon the first carrier frequency, and broadcasts transmissions upon the second carrier frequency, thereby enabling the first and second two-way radios to communicate; wherein the repeater unit establishes a first window of time corresponding to the first radio and a second window of time corresponding to the second radio; wherein, the repeater unit awaits a transmission from the first radio during the first window of time, and awaits a transmission from the second radio during the second window of time; Wherein, the repeater unit records absence of transmission from the first radio, if no transmission is received from the first radio during the first window of time; wherein, the repeater unit records absence of transmission from the second radio, if no transmission is received from the second radio during the second window of time; wherein, the repeater unit identifies the first radio as nonfunctional if the number of times absence of transmission by the first radio has been recorded exceeds a threshold; and wherein, the repeater unit identifies the second radio as nonfunctional if the number of times absence of transmission by the second radio has been recorded exceeds a threshold.

***Response to Arguments***

10. Applicant's arguments filed on 08/13/2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding claim 1, the applicant, on page 10 of the remarks, argues that Casper does not identify a transceiver as being nonfunctional. However, the examiner disagrees.

Casper, in column 18, lines 53-60 clearly states that one of the reasons for a transceiver to be entered as failed state is the failure of a transmitter or receiver (i.e., the transceiver is not functional).

Claims 2-7, 9-11 depend from claim 1 and therefore are rejected for the same reason set forth above.

Regarding claim 14, the applicant, on page 12 of the remarks, argues that Bumbarak does not teach "transmission protocol governing subsequent transmissions". The examiner disagrees. In the previous office action, the examiner stated that the call set up overhead information of any wireless system would inherently contain the protocol type of the system in order to technically register with a service provider. In addition, the claim fails to define what the transmission protocol is (i.e., which time slot the cellular telephone will actually be assigned to as argued by the applicant on page 12).

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Therefore, Bumbarak reads on the "transmission protocol" with a broadest reasonable interpretation.

Claims 15-18 depend from claim 14 and therefore are rejected for the same reason set forth above.

### ***Conclusion***

11. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

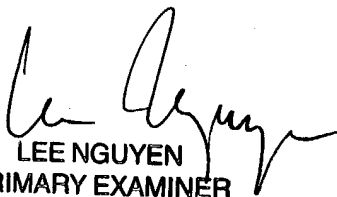
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MINH D DAO whose telephone number is 703-305-5589. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, VIVIAN C CHIN can be reached on 703-308-6739. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Minh Dao  
Art Unit 2682  
December 17, 2004 *MD*

  
LEE NGUYEN  
PRIMARY EXAMINER